

## SALEM FEMALE ACADEMY.

SALEM, N. C.

### History.

This seat of learning is situated in what is known as the Piedmont section of North Carolina, a vast woodland amongst the foothills of the Blue Ridge mountains, one thousand feet above the level of the sea. The district is noted for its health, temperate and salubrious climate, exempt alike from those sudden changes of extreme heat and cold that characterize many localities, its elevation so high above the sea level as to preclude the possibility of the existence of epidemics. The water is a pure, delicious freestone, and very plentiful.

The quaint old town presents a picture of contentment and beauty almost unsurpassed, with its buildings that ante-date the revolution, some of which are covered with tiled roofs nearly a century and a half old; its stately elms, whose branches intertwine across the streets and nod and kiss in the sunshine far above the heads of pedestrians; its long cedar avenue, planted before the memory of any living person, classic in its outline; and the grave-yard, with the green mounds cared for tenderly, where sleep the early inhabitants in their peaceful "God's Acre," with the sunbeams sifting through the trees and resting like patches of gold upon the simple head-stones—all exactly alike, lying flat upon the heads of the graves.

The town was laid off and beautified in 1765 by Frederick William Marshall, who had been appointed Superintendent of the Wachovia Settlement of Moravians. He was an intellectual, scholarly man of great administrative ability—a native of Saxony, Germany. Twelve years before, the advance guard of the Moravians, nine in number, made an overland journey from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and settled at Bethabara, in the wilderness of North Carolina, to found a colony upon a tract of one hundred thousand acres of land which had been purchased from Lord Granville, in England, by Count Zinzendorf, the founder of the Renewed Brethren's Church at Herrnhut, Germany. These lands were paid for by a land company in England, and designed to establish a permanent Moravian settlement in the wilds of America. Everything, therefore, was held in community, the church retaining the reins of government in its own hands and everything managed by agents appointed by the ecclesiastical board.

The settlers were men and women of great intellectual endowments, inexhaustible energy and great piety. Salem was made the centre of all the settlements along the tract, and soon won a name for itself as remarkable for thrift, economy, the utility of every branch of industry established and the high moral tone of its people—none less character ever disgraced its records, and Salem to-day challenges the whole United States to present a cleaner escutcheon.

During the year 1848 the old county of Stokes was divided and the new county of Forsyth was formed, the seat of justice being selected where Winston now stands—Salem's twin sister—and in 1849 the Moravian brethren of Salem sold fifty-one acres in the woods for this purpose at five dollars per acre. The town was laid out and named for Colonel Winston, a patriot of the revolution and prominent in the colonial councils.

It became evident that the monopoly, the community and house system of the brethren, would have to be abolished, which was done in November, 1856, and the days of Moravian exclusiveness were ended.

Tracing the history of Salem Female Academy is like threading the mazes of a thrilling romance.

During the latter part of the past century the Moravian schools of Salem, where the children were instructed, had become famous amongst the people of the surrounding country, attracting the attention of friends and visitors, who expressed a wish that their children might share the advantages of education thus afforded. This expressed wish was the embryo from which has grown the mighty influence that now permeates the inhabitants of nearly every Southern State. Many of the Salem congregations, after much prayerful consideration, became convinced that it "was their Christian duty to serve their friends in the Southern States, and at the same time to work in their Master's cause by raising the standard of female education."

This, then, was the spirit that brought them to be the pioneers of female education in the South, as the school thus contemplated was the first in this section set apart exclusively for girls. The difficulties seemed herculean, but in October, 1862, the congregation of Salem decided to give to Samuel G. Kramsch, minister of the English congregation at Hope, one of the Moravian settlements (who with his wife had served in boarding-schools and was acquainted with every detail), the appointment of commencing a female boarding-school at Salem, and he at once proceeded to engage in his work. Twenty-three day scholars were then in attendance, and by his efforts during the following year the cornerstone of the first of the massive pile of

buildings comprising "The Academy" was laid with imposing, religious ceremonies, between the "Sisters' Home" and "Congregation Home," which had been erected about twenty years before.

Eight little girls from a distance was the small beginning, but they advertised their project of having a school where the home-life would be followed as closely as possible, together with strict discipline and practical instruction.

The people of the South responded to the call for students and sent their daughters to be educated from distant portions of the country—in carriages, by stage, even in ox-wagons, before there was a railroad anywhere in the United States.

At least ten thousand Alumni claim this as their Alma Mater, comprising some of the most distinguished ladies

from the school. The President's office fronts the public square, the width of a narrow street dividing his apartments from the school. Here is the school parlor, where visitors are received; the President's office, rooms for his family and apartments for the post graduates—three large two-story brick buildings all connected.

During the year 1888 Annex Hall was built, a handsome, modern two-story cottage in the Queen Anne style. This fine building faces the playground and in rear of the large structure, and together with the Bagge house is used for the Preparatory Department and the sleeping hall for the younger pupils, under care of a kind, motherly lady. A covered passage-way connects these buildings with dining room, chapel and gymnasium. Throughout the buildings, along all the walls, are placed glass bottles of an extinguishing fluid, in case of fire, and a trusty night watchman, who is obliged to mark his register every half hour, is always on duty, every precaution being used to thus protect the school.

Being the sole property of the Moravian Church, and managed by a board of trustees who comprise some of the most intelligent and progressive citizens of the town, and being conducted as a means of Christian usefulness, not with a view to making money, no expense is spared in introducing all modern improvements for the comfort of pupils, as well as intellectual development.

A suite of rooms on the second floor of the north wing is set apart as an infirmary, where the sick girls are cared for. There is a sitting room for convalescents, and a cook room, where the food is prepared specially for the sick, and never brought from the general kitchen. A lady matron, with an able-bodied white girl, as assistant, presides over this department—a lady so soft and gentle in her manners that all the girls call her mother. When a case of contagious disease makes its appearance it is at once isolated in rooms provided in the Sisters' house, joining the school, and nurses provided. For all this attention no separate

girls sit together, a sofa or divan, several rocking chairs, and the walls are hung with landscape engravings or pictures of distinguished literary characters. Here the study hours are also kept, letters are written, the washing when brought in is inspected, the mending done regularly by pupils once a week, in constant companionship with the teacher, who has absolute control. Joining these sitting rooms are side rooms where each girl has her own shelf for books and place for bouquet or hat, as no one is permitted in the sleeping halls during the day without special permission. The teachers take their girls to chapel and dining room, marching in pairs; also go with them to walk, church, shopping, superintending all purchases, and no scholar is allowed under any circumstances to run up bills at the stores. When articles are needed the money is furnished at the President's office. If sewing has to be hired the President's wife herself goes with the girls to the dress-maker and gives the matter her personal attention, with due regard to the wishes of parents.

A calisthenic suit is required and worn as the every day dress, and is the only uniform of the school, pupils dressing as they please when out walking, at church, &c., but extravagance in this respect is not desired, and the wearing of valuable jewels deprecated. The calisthenic drill for physical development is insisted upon daily, the gymnasium hall below the dining room furnishing a fine place for that purpose. During this term, roller-skating has been introduced and indulged in by those who like the gliding motion, but not required. The sitting rooms are kept in order by "day keepers," two from each room company, who take their turn in sweeping and dusting every morning, and are responsible for the general tidiness of the apartment, and is regarded a pleasant duty rather than a task.

### Christian Training.

The most vital principle of the Academy is its strict moral discipline. "No one can live within the institution

nography, type-writing, book-keeping and telegraphy, who are creditably filling positions in banks, offices and manufacturing, some in the Government Department at Washington, giving satisfaction by their competency.

### Art.

The Studio is situated in the fourth story to have the advantage of the best light. Various models in plaster are in niches along the walls, affording pleasing studies of the works of old masters for those who desire to model in clay, while paintings in many stages of process are to be seen in abundance. Miss Gertrude Seiviers, in charge of the department, is an artist of no mean pretensions, a graduate of the New York School of Design. Her embroidery and needle-work are so perfect as to assume the appearance of painting, while her drawing and oil painting is true to nature. The yearly display at Commencement is equal to that found anywhere.

### Music.

Salem has always been noted for its fine music, from the earliest days of its settlement. Of course, therefore, great attention has been paid to developing this talent in the young ladies committed to the care of the Academy. Successive years have added improvements, until at the present time no other school affords better opportunities for a thorough mastery of both theory and harmony in its most intricate details. The Music Department is under the direction of Prof. George Markgraf, of Germany, who studied for years in the Royal Academy of Music at Berlin, considered the finest conservatory of music in the world. Students from every nation yearly flock there for instruction, enjoying the tutelage of world-renowned artists. For four years the Professor has been connected with the Academy at Salem, coming directly from his home in a distant country to fill this position at the call of the Moravian Bishop of Germany. He has a happy faculty of inspiring his pupils to appreciate the best of classic music, and the will power to command attention and respect, treating the young ladies at all times with unvarying, dignified politeness. Under his direction the oratorios of the great masters have been rendered by the Academy girls, assisted by the Salem Orchestra and Philharmonic Societies, affording rare treats to the lovers of fine music, and nowhere else attempted outside of the large cities. Two years ago, "Samson," by Handel, was given at the close of the Commencement; last year "St. Paul," by Mendelssohn, was the attractive musical feature, and this year Mozart's grand "Requiem," considered the most difficult of that order of classic music, will be presented as the finale of the exercises.

There are five lady assistants in this department, and twenty-five pianos. The practicing rooms are mostly on the lower floor of South Hall.

The Vocal Music Department is in charge of Miss Katharine Evans, of New York, who studied under Madame Artos, of Berlin, Germany, and Madame Viardot Garcia, Paris, France. She is very thorough in patiently training young voices, and her class reflects credit upon their teacher. She has given entire satisfaction as a vocal instructor; will spend the summer in Germany and take another course, returning to Salem next fall.

### The Grounds.

There is no more beautiful park to be found than that in the rear of the Academy, and appeals strongly to all possessed of an æsthetic taste. Large stately elms, drooping willows, and a splashing fountain begin this vista of the chastely beautiful, just outside the long piazzas that stretch around the rear of the building. A broad gravelled-walk, seats scattered here and there, large wooden swings depending from the trees, with knots of happy-faced girls in hours of recreation, make the scene one of lively interest. A flight of steps leads to the well-kept grounds below. A succession of hill and dell, ivied walls, trailing vines, terraced elevations, winding walks, choice shrubbery, Norway spruces a century old, babbling brooks, a romantic spring, rustic bridges, summer houses and seats to tempt the weary, all afford a rare sense of enjoyment and wonder at the great wisdom in uniting with practical instruction also a keen appreciation of the beautiful. Tame deer graze at will in a green pasture known as the "deer park," while on several of the elevations the ground is arranged for croquet, and every pleasant evening the girls are to be seen swinging their mallets; sometimes room companies play against each other, and the game becomes exciting. Lawn tennis also claims the attention frequently.

### Receptions.

The President gives two yearly receptions, which are state occasions, one to the members of the Faculty, the other to the graduating class, the incoming seniors and special students. The large rooms on the lower floor of the President's house are thrown open, decorated handsomely with evergreens and flowers, and dainty refreshments are served in first-class style, while conversation and music serve to while away the hours; Mrs. Clewell presiding as hostess with such grace and dignity as to be a beautiful pattern for the fair girls who will themselves, in turn, dispense Southern hospitality with elegance of manners.

The President also arranges with lecturers and musical clubs from abroad to give entertainments in Gymnasium Hall, to which the pupils have access at reduced rates. During the present term a series of winter evening entertainments were given by the Academy of Music, professors, members of Salem Orchestra and Philharmonic Societies united in a committee and presented a programme which was considered very superior. One concert was given by Salem Orchestra, one by Philharmonic Society, an evening with the Oratorios by Miss Evans, a Mozart evening by Prof. Markgraf, the music of the latter alone costing the school over fifty dollars.

### The President.

There are no words to express the Rev. John H. Clewell's perfect adaptability for the responsible position to which he has been called. He is a regularly ordained minister of the Moravian Church, an humble Christian, a young man possessed of the most progressive thought; a polished gentleman, polite and deferential towards the young ladies.

### Commercial Department.

Although this School, as a special department, has only been in existence four years, yet it has turned out graduates in the prescribed course in pho-

dies, but holding the reins of government with a firm, steady hand. He is a native of Salem, a graduate of theological colleges in Pennsylvania and New York, and fully conscious of all the requirements of exalted womanhood—always alert to add any improvement to the comfort and happiness of pupils, yet insisting upon the "strict letter of the law."

Accompanied by his wife, who is in full sympathy with all his plans, he took the young ladies of the Senior class on a tour of Northern cities during the present term, and afforded them some experiences they had never before enjoyed—viewing the many treasures of art at Washington, Philadelphia and New York—all returning pleased that the students tour was such a grand success, and sensible of the advantage of the society of cultured people to direct their steps amongst the many interesting places they visited.

Too much can hardly be said of the efficient work of Miss E. A. Lehman at the head of the Literary Department, who for more than a quarter of a century has made female education the sole object of her life. In point of intellectuality she is the peer of any woman in the South. She has recently published a neat little pamphlet entitled "Sketches of Travel," gleaned during a foreign tour last summer in company with the North Carolina Teachers. This work is a choice contribution from a gifted brain, noting specially every scene of historic interest, and given in her happy descriptive style, with the impressions made while "realizing a dream of years." It is affectionately dedicated to the graduates of Salem Female Academy, who have all been under her care; and will, no doubt, be largely read and enjoyed because written by one who was not only their instructor, but also a faithful friend.

The Misses Shaffner, who have also both been many years connected with the Literary Department, will during this summer make a tour of Europe, thus further manifesting a desire amongst the teachers to enrich their minds by travel, and the better be prepared for their various duties.

### Donations.

The Academy has never had an endowment from any source, but has been the recipient of some valuable donations. Mr. F. H. Freis, of Salem, bestowed a gift of one thousand dollars to the Art Department, in memory of his infant daughter who died several years ago, known as "Louise Memorial." Mr. H. E. Freis, also of Salem, his brother, has given liberally to the library and during this year has presented several costly books.

The Alumni Association at their last yearly meeting, conceived the plan for members to increase the library by a "Library Fund," collected from old pupils, who will thereby testify to their love and veneration for their Alma Mater. When this resolution was introduced, Mr. Griffiths of Chattanooga, Tennessee, who was present as a guest at the meeting, generously started the Fund with a donation. It was then named: "The Griffiths Library Fund." Since then the matter has been called to attention, in "The Academy," a paper sent out monthly from the school, and patronized by the Alumni, and gifts have been sent in until the amount has now reached one hundred and thirty-five dollars, and many new volumes have also been sent by friends, so the movement promises to be quite successful.

A handsome bronze fountain has just been placed in the Academy park, at the foot of the steps leading to the small pavilion South of the spring. On the fountain is a silver plate with the following inscription—

PRESENTED BY  
REV. EDWARD RONDTHALER.  
1890.

This was given as a memento of Dr. Rondthaler's principalship, as he was for years Mr. Clewell's predecessor as President, but his duties as pastor of his large congregation demanded he should not be crowded too much, and two years ago the board accepted his resignation.

### Future Prospects.

The year will close successfully, a marked and unprecedented record in the history of the Academy. Everything is in fine working condition, and the motto still "Excelsior." A prominent citizen of Winston said a few days ago: "As old and wide-spread as the influence of the Academy already is, I am convinced it has such a brilliant future ahead as to seem now only in its infancy."

Arrangements have already been made looking to greater success. A lady of literary experience and reputation has been engaged who will devote a great portion of her time exclusively to Composition and Rhetoric, and also deliver a weekly lecture on female deportment, which will assume rather the style of motherly chats to girls, than dry rules laid down in a stilted manner.

An Industrial Department will also be established, embracing instructions in cooking and dress-making. This will be under the direct supervision of Miss Gertrude Seiviers, teacher of Art, who during a tour of Europe last summer, in connection with her visits to the studios of the world's best artists, also noted with interest the working of Industrial schools on the Continent. She is a lady of practical thought, and will enter upon this new work with zest and earnestness, and aided by such assistants as the work may require.

"How to get to Salem Female Academy" is a perfect compendium of information as to routes &c., from all localities East, West, North and South, prepared by Mr. Clewell, and published in an attractive form with pictures, maps, illustrations of buildings, and many valuable suggestions to all seeking a first-class school as well as home for daughters and wards. To be had on application to the President, Rev. F. H. Clewell, Salem North Carolina.

### Programme of Commencement.

Friday evening, May 30, Miss Evans' Concert.

Sunday morning, June 1, Baccalaureate Sermon, by Rev. Charles W. Byrd, of Fayetteville, N. C.

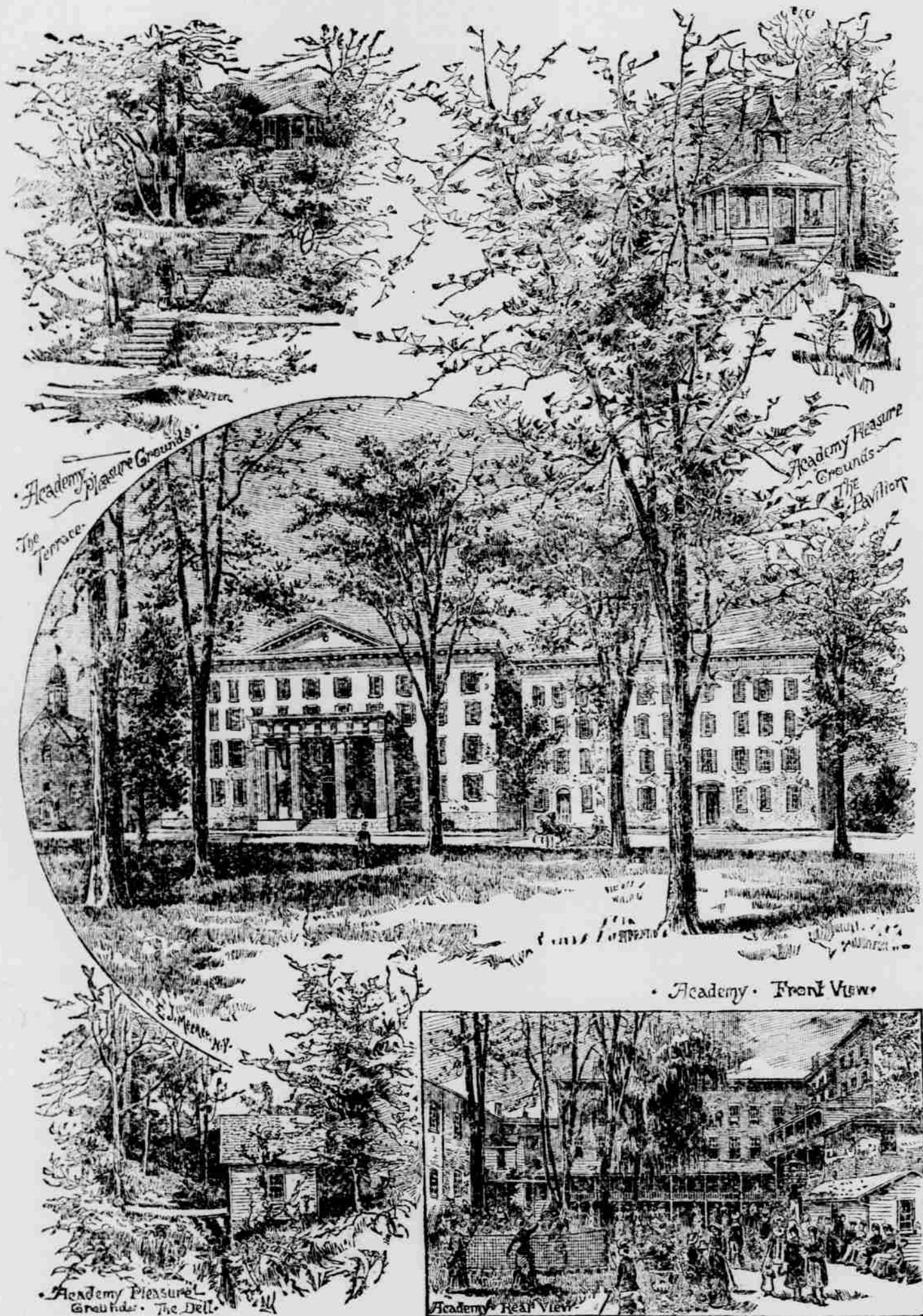
Monday evening, June 2, Seniors' evening (first night).

Tuesday afternoon, June 3, Meeting of the Alumni Association.

Tuesday afternoon, June 3, Art Exhibit (second night).

Wednesday morning, June 4, Commencement. Address by Hon. G. W. Sanderlin, State Auditor of North Carolina.

Wednesday evening, June 4, Closing Concert. A. V. W.



SALEM FEMALE ACADEMY.

of the South, who have gone forth to shed an influence upon society second to none in the nation. Among them, two have been called upon to do the honors of the White House—Mrs. President Polk and Mrs. Patterson, daughter of President Jackson. Mrs. General Stonewall Jackson and Mrs. General D. H. Hill were also educated here. Mrs. Polk, now living in the seclusion of her Tennessee home, sends an occasional letter to the Academy paper, breathing her love and veneration for the school of her youth, with messages of encouragement to the teachers who have succeeded her day and generation. The children and grand-children of old pupils are now in yearly attendance at the Academy, which bespeaks for the institution the highest measure of praise.

### Buildings.

The new Academy building was erected in 1854 on the site of the old Congregation House, joining the old Academy building (or South hall) on one side and connected with the church which was built in 1799, by a covered passage-way. The main hall alone presents a front of one hundred feet, opening directly on the street from the broad portico, in the Doric style of architecture, four stories in height—an imposing pile constructed of pressed brick. There are north and south wings, forming three sides of a hollow square, broad halls, wide porticoes, extending around the whole building above and below stairs, affording a pleasant place for recreation and exercise during rainy weather. The rooms are well-lighted and supplied with fresh air by means of ventilators. The buildings are supplied with gas, electric lights and water throughout; electric bells call the classes, and speaking tubes underground from the President's office to teachers' rooms and halls are arranged for the convenience of the Faculty, while a telegraph wire in the President's office, attached to the Winston office of the Western Union Telegraph company, connects the Academy with all portions of the outside world, and parents receive messages from their daughters directly

charge is made, and only the doctor's bills are ever presented to parents. There has been only one death in the school during the past four years, and with the large number in attendance (one hundred and sixty boarders during the present term) it is quite remarkable there has been so little fatal illness.

### Home Life.

The Academy at its inception was modelled upon the plan of Moravian schools in Europe, where the home was made the basis of the school arrangement, and this remains the one distinctive feature of the whole, which has been most prolific of good results.

The Principal and wife constitute the head of the household, and are the tribunal to whom is submitted every perplexing care and grievance. The number of students is divided without reference to scholarship into "room companies" of about fifteen, who are constantly under the supervision of two lady teachers, who on alternate days are "on duty" with their charge. These little families occupy a common sleeping hall, divided according to the French system into alcoves, where each girl has her trunk, separate bed, (in front of each a large rug), hooks for clothing, &c. Shelves and mirrors along the walls provide all the necessary accommodations for dressing, and when the curtains are drawn each girl enjoys the utmost privacy. The wash rooms adjoin the sleeping halls, where hot and cold water is found. Each girl has her own basin, hook for her towel, shelf for toilet articles, each marked with a letter or number, preventing confusion, and all required to be kept strictly in place, thus training young girls into daily, orderly habits. Bath-rooms and bath-tubs, provided with hot and cold water, in the basement, furnish opportunity for more general bathing at stated periods.

Each room company have their sitting room, either on first or second floor, where they live with their teacher when out of class. These parlors are comfortable, cheerful and home-like. The floors have Brussels carpets, walnut tables, with drawers, where four

without feeling that Jesus Christ, the great Head and Ruler of the Church, is here the guiding power; and yet the training, both earnest and genuine, is entirely unsectarian. Chapel services are held each morning for half an hour, each girl having her own hymn book and joining in singing, the organ played by the music professor, thus beginning the business of each day with prayer and praise to His great name—asking the guidance of Him who ruleth all things. Without the upholding of that Divine hand the successful work of nearly a century could not have been accomplished, and strength afforded to the honorable list of instructors who have long ago passed into the beyond, without realizing the fruit of the seed sown by their consecrated lives, the remembrance of those lives linking the present with the past in a sacred and fascinating study.

### Scholastic Work.

is equal to that of any college for young ladies. The four great divisions of Literature, Mathematics, Ancient and Modern Languages, with their various subdivisions, are all necessary to graduation.

The Literary Department is conducted by ladies of experience and wisdom, many of whom have been connected with the institution for two decades, their minds enriched by foreign travel, and no better teachers can be found in the United States.

The Linguistic Department is in charge of ladies who have made the study of foreign languages a special study. "Where language pupils contemplate going abroad, or wish, though remaining at home, to be instructed specially as private pupils, they have an opportunity of doing so, making greater progress than is possible in the general academic classes. The teaching follows the best modern methods, and engrafts as far as possible a facility in conversation upon what is read from approved authors."

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